

**PARK BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017**

Chair Craig Kittel called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30, 2017.

Members Present: Craig Kittel, Frank Norton, Jon Hailey, Brian Schroeder, and Mandi Erickson

Members Absent: Joe Ard, and Christine Melby

Others Present: Deb Ramacher, Rachel Sauvola, Teresa DeYoung, Catarina Parsons, Sarah Sweet, Melissa Wittstock, Sandra Heinz, Noah Wiedenfeld, Mike Darrow, Jeremiah Wendt, and Michael Mroz

Craig Kittel moved to adopt the agenda, moving 7e to 7a, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

Jon Hailey moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2017 meeting, seconded by Mandi Erickson, motion carried.

Public Business Items

Michael Mroz updated the committee on the hockey building. Due to the recent hail storm the company originally slated to perform the repair work has backed out therefore, Michael will contact other area roofing companies to obtain quotes and get the roofed repaired before winter.

Craig Kittel thanked everyone for their help with the Doar Project.

Unfinished Business:

Freedom Park Restrooms/turf issues:

Representatives from the Soccer Association attended to express their interest in collaborating with the City to install permanent restrooms at Freedom Park. They also wanted to follow up with the field turf conditions. Jeremiah Wendt stated the turf has not filled in as well as they thought it would due to poor soil conditions and that the City is working on ways to resolve the issue. Michael Mroz will contact a field turf consultant and get their recommendations before we proceed with any applications.

Craig Kittel gave an update on the VFW building and the plans include the restrooms. The request is at the Pentagon to get troops to come and do the project.

The Soccer Association would also like to put in a rebound wall. They are suggesting on the north end. They would like to have sponsors on one side and the association logo on the other. The association is asked to bring back a proposal for sponsorship on the wall.

New Business

SOAR Project Discussion:

Mike Darrow gave the background information on the SOAR project. The original plan was to place this facility on the airport land but we are still waiting for an answer from the FAA if this can happen. In the meantime, the north end of Freedom Park has been suggested as a possible location to house these facilities. Mike Darrow is asking the Park Board to consider the following:

- Does this fit into your policy plan?
- Does this fit into the master plan?
- Do you feel this is something of value to this area?
- What is the best interest of Freedom park?

Jon Hailey stated his concern is giving away land that was originally planned for more athletic fields. Mandi Erickson commented that we need the space to expand the recreational opportunities in the future. There would also be revenue loss on the farmland rental. There was discussion on other possible locations. Motion was made by Frank Norton to proceed with the SOAR idea project with the stipulation that the school comes back to the park board with a formal proposal before any work takes place, seconded by Brian Schroeder, motion carried.

Peace Gathering Request:

The background information was given on the Peace Gathering for Mary Park on September 17th from 7-8 p.m. They will have a couple of speakers including the school superintendent. Speakers would be 15 minutes each and they would sing a couple of songs. They would use 7" utility candles with cups. Michael Mroz will check with the Fire Chief on if there are any concerns. Motion was made by Mandi Erickson to permit the Peace Gathering at Mary Park on September 17th from 7-8 PM, seconded by Jon Hailey, motion carried.

Leadership Trust Initiative Project:

The project that is being championed by Brian Schroeder and Teresa De Young is to construct an adaptive playground within the City of New Richmond. The closest options for such facilities are River Falls, Stillwater, or Woodbury. The LTI group is proposing an all-inclusive playground with poured in place rubber surfacing that children in wheelchairs can motor around independently as well as music therapy amenities. The playground could be a destination place in New Richmond for children as well as grandparents from around the area. The equipment could be used by all children not just those with special needs. We are asking for the Park Boards blessing to continue researching this project. There was discussion on locations for this type of park. Teresa suggested placing this park on the Commons area by the library. Noah suggested Victoria Park by the hospital. Brian stated they are not set on any location they just want something great for the community. The cost for a playground like this for a community build is \$300,000 - \$500,000.00. The rubber surfacing is \$13-\$15.00 per square foot. The next step will be to propose to the New Richmond Recreation Partnership committee.

Mike Darrow asked if there was a way to phase in some of these things in parks we currently have so they are user friendly for everyone. There was discussion on changing over one of the play areas at Mary Park or Paperjack. Teresa had a concern of it turning into a us & them park. Brian stated they are willing to work with other entities to share the costs. Craig said he has talked to the school regarding a project like this being done at the Commons area and they thought it was a good site and could possible help with costs.

Hatfield Park Netting:

The City of New Richmond has been approached by the New Richmond Baseball Club (NRBC) to add netting to the backstops at Hatfield Park field number one and two to help eliminate foul balls from flying into the stands area. The entire project would be funded by the NRBC. The Public Works Department would complete the installation using existing light tower poles. Motion was made by Jon Hailey to approve the nets, seconded by Craig Kittel, motion carried.

Fox Run & Whispering Prairie Neighborhood Meetings:

These meetings would be general informal meetings with the purpose of gathering information on what residents want at these dedicated parklands. It was suggested to give each person 5 stickers (dots) and explain a trail will cost you 5 dots, a grill would cost you 1 dot, etc... Each dot will be given a value. Frank Norton stated it works to start broad and then narrow the list down. Jeremiah stated it is not necessary the members be in attendance. The neighborhood meeting will be held on September 20 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. The group can split up between the two sites.

Park Land Trust Report:

Park Land Trust Fund - \$151,779.40

Impact Fees Fund – \$4,910.57

Inspections Reports – Handed in to Mike

Northside park chips are low, and at Glover Park the mounds look overgrown.

Announcements:

Skylark Skate Park Celebration will be September 16th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 3rd Lair will be there doing demo's and lessons.

Frank Norton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jon Hailey, motion carried.

The meeting of the Park Board was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by
Marie Bannink
City Secretary